



## **Edward Eppinger**

**By Frank R. Baron (1985)**

At age 79 years, Edward Eppinger is sole owner of the Eppinger Tackle Manufacturing Company, of Dearborn, Michigan.

Founded by his uncle Lou Eppinger, a Detroit, Michigan taxidermist, in 1906 with the invention of the now world famous Daredevle metal spoon. The spoon was originally christened, "The Osprey". The metal spoons caught on quickly because they had great action and a unique wiggle to them as fisherman pulled them through the water.

Edward joined the company in 1918. Eventually he gained a quarter interest in the company and helped his uncle build a thriving and stable business, marketing all types of hunting and fishing equipment, including fishing reels.

When Lou died in 1958, Edward took over and reshaped the company. Fifteen years ago he consolidated and protected his domain by buying up the Buel Lure Company, a company founded by Julio T. Buel, the man who is credited with inventing the first metal trolling lure in the 1830's. "I now own all of their dies and I wanted their trade mark's" Eppinger stated.

Ten years ago Eppinger bought the "Tuttle's Devil Bugs Company", a company in Old Forge, N.Y. that had been making hand tied deer hair lures as long as Eppinger had been making spoons.

Eppinger traces a good share of his success to the months of serious fishing he does every year. His company now offers enough colors, sizes and shapes to market 6,000 different lures and presently grosses about

\$2,000,000 a year. Edward Eppinger promises to run the company "till I die".

I believe that this unique, energetic sport fisherman, inventor, and business man/has truly left his mark on the American,& World sport fishing scene, and the N.F.L.C.C membership should be proud to give this man an Honorary Award in 1985.



Edward Eppinger

Honorary Member - 1985